

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 /088 W

-----017264 081855Z /41

R 081445Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 896

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A: TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, SG, CF

SUBJECT: EXPULSIONS FROM CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE

1. TUESDAY'S GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY "SOLEIL" CARRIES AN AFP REPORT DATED LAGOS REPORTING THAT 150 NIGERIANS AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF SENEGALESE, BENINOIS, AND MAURICIENS WERE BEING EXPELLED FROM CONGO-B. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH AN EDITOR'S NOTE THAT THIS IS MERELY A WIRE SERVICE STORY, WHICH CANNOT BE CONFIRMED.

2. SAME ISSUE, WITHOUT DRAWING ANY CONNECTION, MAKES BRIEF MENTION OF VISIT TO DAKAR OF MARTIN ADOUKI, DIPLOMATIC AND LEGAL ADVISER IN CONGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, CARRYING SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM COLONEL YHOMBI-OPANGO.

3. WEDNESDAY'S "SOLEIL" CARRIES BANNER HEADLINE ON EXPULSIONS, WITH PHOTO OF FIRST FIVE TO ARRIVE. STORIES TOLD, NO DOUBT CHOSEN CAREFULLY, EMPHASIZE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THOSE EXPELLED WERE IN COMPLETE COMPLIANCE WITH CONGOLESE LAW. EXPELEES RECOUNT STORIES

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OF HUMILIATING BUT NOT BRUTAL TREATMENT, EMPHASIZING GOODS AND CASH LEFT BEHIND. A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL DEPLORES EXPULSIONS AS CONTRARY TO SPIRIT OF OAU AND AFRICAN SOLIDARITY.

4. THURSDAY'S "SOLEIL" CARRIED BANNER HEADLINE, LARGE PHOTO OF EXPELEES, WHO NOW NUMBER OVER 400, WITH TWO

MORE DC-10'S AWAITED TODAY. GOS HAS OPENED SPECIAL TERMINAL USED FOR PILGRIMS TO MECCA TO RECEIVE THE REFUGEES. FRANCOIS BOB, SECRETARY-GENERAL MFA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR TO BRAZZAVILLE WILL BE RECALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS AFTER LAST REFUGEE IS CARED FOR IN THE CONGO. EMPHASIS IS ON GOS PLANS TO NEGOTIATE COMPENSATION FOR EXPELEES FROM CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT. BOB NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT, "OFFICIALLY, THE CONGOLESE AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THAT THOSE EXPELLED WERE NOT LEGAL RESIDENTS. WE HAVEN'T VERIFIED THAT YET, BUT YOU MUST REALIZE THAT IN SPITE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO CONTROL THOSE WHO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, SOME SENEGALESE LEAVE SECRETLY..."

5. COMMENT: SENEGALESE HAVE FOR YEARS MIGRATED AS FAR AS KINSHASA, TENDING TO OPEN SMALL BUSINESSES, AND REMAIN ALOOF FROM LOCAL POPULATION. LAST MAJOR EXPULSION OF SENEGALESE WAS IN 1972 FROM KINSHASA. NUMBERS SO FAR REPORTED ARE NOT BEYOND CAPACITY OF EXTENDED FAMILIES TO ABSORB. GOS WILL PROBABLY TRY TO OBTAIN SOME COMPENSATION, BUT REFUGEE CLAIMS ARE PROBABLY INFLATED. IF CONGO-B IS WILLING TO MAKE SOME SYMBOLIC PAYMENT, MATTER IS UNLIKELY TO TROUBLE SERIOUSLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
COHEN

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